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THE COMMON CAUSE
OF HUMANITY.
The Organ of the National Union of
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. ***Societies and Branches in the Union*** **602.** **LAW-ABIDING.**

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The N.U.W.S.S. is an association of over 52,000 men and women who have banded themselves together, under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, for the purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. At this great national crisis, however, they have for the time being suspended their political activities, in order to put themselves and their Union at the service of those who are organising the relief of distress caused by the war. They desire to help in the most effective way, by work rather than doles; to preserve the life of the race for the future by special care of mothers and young children; and generally to illustrate in their own lives the truth that the Suffragists' demand is for duties rather than for rights, and their ideal is the service of humanity. WILL YOU JOIN?

Notes and News.

Great Meeting at the Kingsway Hall.

The Kingsway Hall meeting, in spite of the altered hour, and the terrors of dark London streets in these days, was a magnificent success. The audience was large and enthusiastic, and the collection (to be divided between the Queen's Work for Women Fund, and the Active Service Fund) amounted to over £213, in cash and promises. An apology is owing to those who did not see the notice of the alteration of the time of meeting, and consequently came to the hall at 8 o'clock. To meet their disappointment it is proposed to hold another meeting on the same lines on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd. Full particulars will be published in our issue of next week. Meanwhile, we are asked to say that the change was made reluctantly, but necessarily, on account of the dislike of many Londoners to brave their darkened streets by night.

The N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital.

We publish on p. 503 a list of donations already given or promised to the Scottish Women's Hospital Fund, for which Dr. Inglis pleaded eloquently at the meeting. Please send what you can spare as quickly as possible.

"Round About £1 a Week."

Parliament meets on November 11th. War was declared on August 4th. Since then the fact—new to most of us—that the widow of a soldier killed in action receives a pension of 5s. a week, with 1s. extra for each child, has been brought home to us by the campaign, started by the *Daily Citizen*, for a pension of £1 a week for wives, widows, and mothers (dependent on their sons) of soldiers and sailors, and for soldiers and sailors permanently maimed in action. We should like to state their case dispassionately, ruling out, for the moment, every consideration but that of enlightened self-interest. Is it likely to encourage recruiting, to pay a soldier's widow 5s. a week? A man may be willing to face death for himself, but not starvation for his family. Is it wise to force women into the labour market, when they have little children needing their care at home? Is it really economical to provide 1s. a week for each child, in order to have the satisfaction of supporting its starved and stunted person later on in a hospital, a workhouse, or a prison? After the war, when tens of thousands of able-bodied men will have been killed in battle, will 1s. a week really represent the value to the nation of its children? and 5s. a week the value of their mothers? Or shall we decide *now* to give the women a chance of doing their first and greatest duty as they wish to do it, and provide them with the means of subsistence rather than with the mockery of it?

The Needs of Professional Women.

The Times of October 20th criticises the action of the Central Committee on Women's Employment, especially with regard to the failure to help clerical workers thrown out of work. Perhaps *The Times* will lend its powerful support to our plea that the enormous mass of clerical work necessarily employed in connection with the Prince of Wales's Fund, and all relief, should be done by paid women. At present no grants are made for this purpose, and, consequently, volunteers are being largely employed. Presumably, the unemployed clerical workers will, if the distress continues, obtain in the form of relief the money that they might have earned as wages. This seems to us frankly idiotic.

Women Patrols.

The need for women patrols in the neighbourhood of great camps has evidently impressed the public. An instant response has been made to the appeal for funds issued by the Women's Patrol Committee, and Miss Garrett has already received over £400.

This money will go to pay the salaries of organisers of the work. Volunteers are asked for to act as patrols. The scheme is one which has great possibilities, but we regret that the women patrols are not to be paid. For such work, experience, ability, and knowledge of the world are required, and we think they should be paid for. In so new and important an experiment everything depends on getting the right women. We can think of many who are emphatically "right"—women of the type of those who built up the great Co-operative Guild, or the Women's Trades Union League, for example—but these cannot be chosen if volunteer work is demanded. Of course, there is the difficulty of raising funds, but the work is so important—and, we may add, so difficult—that we believe the funds could be got. Everyone is alive just now to the need of protecting both young men and young women in and near our camps.

SNA X

Florence Nightingale and the C. D. Acts.

A correspondent calls our attention to the fact that Florence Nightingale, though she signed the memorial in 1870 against the C. D. Acts, later modified her opinion and signed another memorial asking that "effectual measures" should be taken "to check the spread of contagious diseases amongst our soldiers, especially in India." She did so, however, with a reservation, asking for an independent inquiry into the working of regulation as at that time practised at some stations in India. Since the date of this memorial (1896) much inquiry has been made, and the evidence has been overwhelmingly against regulation, not on moral or on medical grounds only, but on both. Indeed, the danger of a return to the system now is probably not a legislative one. It is rather a question of police administration. Public opinion, we believe, would not tolerate laws constituting the State the protector of immorality; but those who have worked longest against the re-enactment of such laws are well aware that their effect may be gained in other ways, and largely without the knowledge of the public. Wider powers are being demanded for the police in connection with our camps, and it is necessary that the granting of such powers, and their exercise if granted, should be watched with great care by women. We all desire the protection of both men and women—especially when, as in this case, those concerned are so often only boys and girls—and the protection given must be of the wisest. It must not insult either sex by pre-supposing the necessity of vice.

Lord Kitchener and the Health of the Army.

We are glad to see that the Director-General of the Army Medical Service reports a highly satisfactory state of health in the troops at home and in the Expeditionary Force. Lord Kitchener has decided to establish a sanitary committee of military and civilian members, to advise him on all matters affecting the health of the army. We have no fear that a committee of experts will advise a return to a discredited system. We hope they will initiate a forward policy, and endeavour, as far as possible, to give the soldier in camp some of the human interests without which human beings will surely get into trouble. Voluntary agencies can probably do this better than officials, but their help should be invited by the authorities, and no camp left without its reading and recreation rooms and refreshment tents.

A Way for Girls to Help.

Surely it must be possible in this way to use the interest and desire to help which is at present running to waste in so many young girls. The fact that they are as much excited about the war as anybody else, is likely to become—in fact, has become—a danger to themselves and other people, and is already spoken of by some of us as if it were a sort of crime. Let us realise that young women and young men are interested in each other; that girls as well as boys are wanting to help, but, unlike the boys, have no obvious and ready way of doing it; that the people they want to help most of all are the soldiers; and with these surely not very frightful facts before us, let us set to work to turn what may be a dangerous excitement into useful channels. The League of Honour for Women and Girls is an excellent beginning, but it does not go far enough for the girls who really want to be given *something to do*. We hope Suffragists may be able to meet this need, and by making the girls feel that they are being of service to their country, give them a higher sense of their own value, and of their responsibility towards the young men in our camps. We are all patriotic, really, and the desire to "walk out" with a soldier can easily be turned towards doing something for him, in most of us! The Bishop of Lichfield, speaking to a great Mothers' Union meeting in Liverpool yesterday, said that if girls who wanted to help in canteens or recreation rooms went there with their parents engaged in the same errand, no harm was likely to come of it. The suggestion was received with applause, and we should like to add that no harm, but much good, is likely to come of so wise a recognition of facts. It is not good or wise to go on the lines that girls and boys must always be kept apart. Let them be together sometimes—under the right conditions.

In Memoriam.

In another column we publish a short obituary notice of two devoted Suffragists—the Misses Priestman, of Clifton, Bristol. They were of an older generation of women, fellow-workers with Mrs. Butler and Miss Lydia Becker, but they had the spirit of eternal youth and love.

Recreation for Soldiers.

In the early days of the war women were quick to realise the importance of providing recreation for the soldiers and recruits assembled in different parts of the country. As we pointed out last week, young men in camp and barracks—many of whom have just been taken out of the ordinary surroundings of home and work—need some sort of human life beyond mere eating, drilling, and sleeping. Temptations abound; and if opportunities for wholesome recreation are not given undesirable acquaintances are apt to be made, and young men drift into the public-house simply because there is nowhere else where they can amuse themselves.

Several of our own Societies have helped in providing recreation and camp comforts for our troops, and we published in our issue of August 28th an account of the Cambridge Society's tent for soldiers encamped on Stourbridge Common.* But as far as women are concerned, the chief work in providing recreation and refreshments for soldiers has been done by the British Women's Temperance Association, acting through its local branches. The usual plan of this Association is to open a shop where refreshments of first-rate quality can be bought for a very moderate price. A notice to the effect that "only soldiers and recruits will be served" attracts many a man who would not go into an ordinary tea-room, and when he finds a room behind the shop with a piano in it, and another upstairs where he can read or write, he often stays for the whole evening. Impromptu concerts are got up, and the premises soon become regarded as a kind of club where "Tommie" feels quite at home.

At Tunbridge Wells 450 soldiers were encamped on the common, and within two days of their arrival the local branch of the B.W.T.A., aided by the Union of Women Workers, had a fully equipped tent fixed for recreation, writing, and refreshment, the accommodation having since been increased. Their work is so highly appreciated by the commanding officer and staff that when the camp moves into winter quarters a marquee is to be provided as part of the camp equipment. At Prenton (Birkenhead) a canteen has been opened inside the Territorial Barracks, the Y.M.C.A. providing writing paper, concerts, &c. The officers say that the canteen has caused "a distinct improvement in the men," who find it a great boon. In Chester a canteen has been opened close to the barracks, where refreshments are served till after the public-houses are closed at eleven o'clock, and here, too, officers and men thoroughly appreciate the work.

Bedford, a town normally inhabited by some 40,000 people, was suddenly faced in the week of the war with an influx of over 20,000 men from Scotland, and fresh recruits were added till there are now over 25,000 soldiers quartered there, nearly all billeted in private houses. The local B.W.T.A. rose to the occasion, and as it was evident that the usual refreshment rooms of the place could not cope with the demands of the hundreds of hungry and thirsty men streaming into Bedford station, they decided to supply temperance refreshments themselves. The following account appears in the organ of the B.W.T.A. for October:—

> Within a very few days they had arranged a rota of voluntary helpers, and taken a small empty shop, a quaint old place with several tiny rooms, but fairly convenient, and very well situated for its purpose. Within the first twenty-four hours of its opening, some hundreds of men had been served, the simple homely look of the place evidently attracting them. . . . A second shop, in a different part of the town, was then opened, quickly followed by a more commodious house on a prominent thoroughfare. All three places have been kept very busy, though the number of customers varies greatly according to the work the men are on, as much of it takes them outside the town for hours together. Catering is difficult, for it is impossible to tell from day to day what will be needed, but Sunday is always the very busiest day, as then the soldiers have more free time, and most of the ordinary tea-shops are closed.
>
> A large proportion of the lads and men who come in have left very comfortable homes, with mothers and sisters and wives, who would be horrified if they saw the dreadful concoction mis-named "tea" by the army cooks, and the monotonous beef stew and often ill-cooked potatoes which form the staple dinner. . . . The "British Women" have established a wide reputation for first-rate tea, delicious scones, and home-made sausage-rolls, and the fresh milk and excellent bread-and-butter are immensely appreciated by the young London business men, whose accustomed ways of living have been so suddenly changed by their enlistment. Very many of them are total abstainers, and often our workers are told, "Oh, I know the B.W.T.A., my mother belongs to it at home." Others puzzle over the initials on the brightly-painted notices in the window, and one frequent guess is that they must mean "Bedford Women's Territorial Association." Another notice in those windows is

* We learn from a report from the Eastern Counties' Federation just received that this tent realised a profit of £28 which was given to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.

warmly welcomed by lads who have always been well cared for in their homes—"British Women will wash and mend soldiers' socks and clothes." That was the happy thought of an old member, who knew how much it would add to the comfort of those whose feet had not yet hardened to the constant marching and hard labour of trench-digging, and it was a simple matter to find women who were glad to undertake the work for very moderate payment.

A W.S.S. Enterprise.

Other organisations—notably the Y.M.C.A.—are engaged in running recreation tents, and we have just received the following from one of the Societies of our Scottish Federation :—

The Leven Society for Women's Suffrage undertook to run a Reading and Recreation Tent for the men on one of the Territorial Camps at Leven, and have been doing so since the beginning of September. The members came forward very heartily with offers of help of all kinds, and it has been quite easy to have the tent staffed every day in the week from 3 p.m. until 9.30. A piano was hired, and a gramaphone and a billiard table were lent by members. Games of all sorts, including cards, dominoes, draughts, ludo, &c., and a large number of books and magazines were also sent in, and all these have been greatly appreciated, and made use of constantly. Several members have ordered copies of various daily papers to be supplied direct to the tent. One long table is entirely given up to writing, and is occupied the whole afternoon and evening by a succession of men writing letters. On Sunday evenings there is hymn singing, and a very short service at the close. There is no doubt that the tent is greatly appreciated by the men in camp, who come in such numbers that it is difficult sometimes to find even standing room.

Classes for Soldiers.

The Y.M.C.A. are appealing for voluntary helpers with the classes which they are getting up for French, cooking, sewing, and handicrafts. They would also be grateful for any offers of the use of bath-rooms, and rooms for writing, reading, &c., in houses near the camps—these are particularly needed near Holland Park, the White City, Lords, and Woolwich. They ask for presents of men's civilian clothes, magazines, and scrap books. Temperance workers are also needed.

Affiliated Societies of the N.U. in the neighbourhood of the camps all over the country might offer help through the nearest representatives of the Y.M.C.A., or communicate with Miss Lawrence at the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.

Further Effort Needed.

Miss Sylvia Clark (The Hurst, Church Crookham, Hants) appeals to our readers for help to build a recreation room for recruits. She writes :—

"There are 6,000 near this village, at present chiefly under canvas, but shortly to be moved into huts. Beyond their sleeping accommodation they have no shelter and nowhere to go when their work is over, and in the village all the institutions have been thrown open for them, and many people have lent their private rooms. In Fleet, 3 miles from the camp, more is being done in the same way, but doing our best we cannot provide for more than 500 a night.

The War Office will give a site in the camp for a room, where the men can just drop in and read and write, and amuse themselves. A good room to hold 200, which when once started would be no further expense, would cost £200. Will anyone give me a shilling towards it? One shilling and a halfpenny if they wish it acknowledged. Many of the recruits are men who have given up good homes and good work, and made great sacrifices to serve their country, and I feel sure many people would like to do something for them, to show they appreciate the sacrifice."

Work for Professional Women.

Clerical Workers.

We are glad to learn that the Central Committee for the Employment of Women is devising schemes for the employment of clerical workers, and also for giving training, together with maintenance, to those who are partially trained. Meanwhile, private enterprise is already active in finding work for the many secretaries, typists, and others, thrown out of employment by the war. Among the first to suffer from the general cutting down of business were the clerical workers, many of whom found themselves thrown out of employment with a week's salary in their pockets and no prospect whatever of earning a livelihood.

In some instances, we are told, those who had gone on holiday received no notice and came back to find work at a standstill, shutters up, and that their income had suddenly ceased. Still worse off were the English girls who had been working in Germany or Austria, and who had banked, or invested, their money in those countries. Forced to fly with hand luggage only, leaving their hard-earned savings behind, they have arrived here in the clothes they stand up in and absolutely beggared of everything else they possessed.

Some panic stricken employers, themselves facing ruin, dismissed their employees in batches; others, less badly hit, followed suit, and hastened to subscribe large sums to Relief Funds; others, again, offered to retain the services of their staffs at salaries reduced 25 per cent. or 50 per cent., sometimes for shorter hours, or—better still—for three days' work, thus saving three days' fares. Half-wage and half-time, however, did not invariably march hand in hand, nor was the former always a living wage. It must be borne in mind, too, that the Government exacts the full health insurance contribution from the half-time worker. If, therefore, women in this profession were not to lose their sickness benefits, when health might the more readily fail through over anxiety and actual want, something had to be done for them, and at once.

War Emergency Fund for Clerical Workers.

At this crisis, the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, opened its doors to all British clerical workers in distress, and immediately started a War Emergency Fund. Its first appeal for aid was made to the more fortunate among the profession itself, who had been able to retain their posts and their salaries intact. They were asked to subscribe at the rate of 6d. in the £ of their weekly earnings, but, of course, with due consideration of any private calls they might have upon them. The delusion cherished by many leisured and well-to-do people, that middle class workers are invariably financed by their relatives and should, therefore, be paid less than men, is a delusion at the best of times: at this, worst of times, it deserves a stronger term. "I have kept a sick sister for years and now my brother who has six children is out of work," said the recipient of 27s. 6d. per week, in fear that she might soon lose this sum, so pitifully inadequate to the calls she had to meet. "My father is in a lunatic asylum, and mother's pension is not enough for herself: she's ill with all the trouble she's had and can do nothing," was the dreary statement of a forlorn-looking girl, who had been earning 13s. a week and lost her work days ago. She was one of many quite unqualified for this profession, who had drifted into its lowest rank because she had not been taught to earn a livelihood in any way suitable to her capacity.

Prospects Brightening.

Already employment has been found for a considerable number of clerical workers, and the offices of the Fund have become a depôt for copying. Through a friend's kindness advertisements inserted by her in various papers asking for family letters and documents to copy, have brought in a precious log-book kept by a naval officer in 1810. Banks and insurance companies, too, are slowly making up their minds to give the women a chance, and as their staffs are being steadily depleted by men going to the front, prospects of employment for women should rapidly improve. Miss Helen C. Gordon, Hon. Organiser and Treasurer of the War Emergency Fund, from whom the above information was received, hopes that sufficient support may be forthcoming to enable women clerical workers to tide over the evil days that have befallen them, and asks for continuation throughout the war of the assistance received, both subscriptions and orders for typing being urgently needed.

A Free Employment Bureau.

Mrs. Hoster, whose work in improving the pay and status of clerical workers is known to many of our readers, has sent out the following letter to members of the Chamber of Commerce and the heads of a great number of firms :—

"Dear Sir,—I am writing to ask you whether you are likely to have any vacancies for educated women as clerks, foreign correspondents, or secretaries.

"Owing to the war, a large number of trained workers have been thrown out of employment, and as they are for the most part entirely dependent on their earnings, they will soon be in great distress if work cannot be found for them.

"My interest in the matter lies in the fact that I have, for a great many years, conducted at my own expense, a Free Registry for the benefit of secretarial and clerical workers, and therefore it is naturally to me that they are now coming to seek work and advice.

"In order to meet this increased demand, I am enlarging my Registry, and am using every means in my power to find suitable openings. I may add that every applicant is tested by one of my secretaries, and her qualifications duly entered on a card and indexed. I would like to make it quite clear that there is no charge whatever to either employer or employed.

"I append the names of some of my referees, who will vouch for the good faith of my appeal.—Yours faithfully,

"Constance Hoster."

This letter has already borne fruit in a good many inquiries and Mrs. Hoster has also had an application from one Society organising assistance during the war. Applications from others are likely to follow, as voluntary workers begin to tire of their unaccustomed duties or are found to be inefficient.

"At present," writes Miss Gordon, "competent women clerks are vainly applying for employment to the relief

funds, and when they are told that the clerical work is all done on a voluntary basis, feel, with considerable bitterness, that well-to-do women are taking the bread out of their mouths. In excuse, it has been argued that money subscribed by the charitable for an express purpose is eaten up in its administration by highly-paid officials. No doubt there is some truth in this, but it would be interesting to know the occasion on which clerical women workers attained the exalted position of officials with large salaries. When philanthropy is concerned, this has usually been considered a wholly sufficient plea for under-paying, rather than over-paying."

Since writing the above, we have learnt from Mrs. Hoster that one of the banks which has started taking women is so satisfied with the work of those she sent that it has asked her to send two more. Mrs. Hoster has also seen Sir William Soulsby on the subject of employment for women in the City, and a branch has been started at the Guildhall under Mr. Alfred Cox. A leader in *The Times* of October 21st, suggests that larger clerical staffs should be employed at the War Office, official need being "at the same time an opportunity for mitigating unemployment among clerical workers."

Altogether, the prospects for clerical workers look decidedly brighter than they did a few weeks ago.

National Care of Maternity.

Deputation to Mr. Herbert Samuel.

A deputation, arranged by the Women's Co-operative Guild, in conjunction with the Women's Labour League and the Railway Women's Guild, waited on Mr. Herbert Samuel on Monday, and urged upon him, in his two-fold capacity of Chairman of the Government Distress Committee and President of the Local Government Board, the desirability of giving Government support to a scheme for the national care of maternity in time of war.

Miss Llewelyn Davies, Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, explained the scheme, and pointed out that the needs of the women for whom they appealed were not met by the forms of help which had so far been given official recognition. The proposals are :—

The provision of regular and systematic medical advice and help for expectant and nursing mothers, and children up to school age.

The provision of nourishment, of doctor or midwife at confinements, and of sick-room help.

The deputation urged Mr. Samuel to :—

(1) Give special encouragement to the formation of Maternity Centres under the Public Health Authorities.

(2) Recommend the Representative Committees to adopt a scheme for the provision of nourishment and medical aid at confinements and sickroom helps, and to make grants for this purpose from the Prince of Wales's Fund.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, speaking of what had already been done, said :—

"With respect to maternity centres, a circular was issued on July 30th, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer assented to half the cost of those centres being defrayed from the National Exchequer. The proposals in the circular embraced arrangements for an ante-natal clinic for expectant mothers; for the medical supervision of midwives; maternity hospital provision; arrangements for giving skilled and prompt assistance to mothers; systematic attendance and treatment for infants; clinics and dispensaries for children up to school age; and home visitation. These various proposals could only be matured gradually, but they look forward to the kind of work set out becoming part of the normal operations of the Public Health service and to that end they were most anxious to combine both the forces of the public authorities and the philanthropic activity of the existing voluntary organisations. Up to now the circular has been replied to by seventy voluntary agencies and forty local authorities."

With regard to grants from the Prince of Wales's Fund, he pointed out that this fund could only be used to relieve cases of distress specifically due to the war; it could not be used for the general needs of motherhood. He suggested that the work necessary to be done for mothers in extreme need owing to the war could not be carried out only by maternity centres, because in many places they did not exist. Such cases should be referred to the local Relief Committees.

With respect to the provision of food through dining-rooms, he did not like to pronounce any very definite opinion; it was a matter to some extent for the local committees themselves.

"While on the one hand it is economical and assists to defeat the incorrigible self-sacrifice of mothers, who if provided with food in their homes would often give it to their children rather than have any of it themselves, on the other hand it has the disadvantage of taking the mother away from her own family at meal times, and often requiring her to go some distance."

Sick Room Helps.

As to inaugurating a system of sick-room helps, women who were not trained nurses, and ought not to be expected to do the work of trained nurses, but who had received some slight training, might act as domestic helps while the mother was ill or recovering. A system of that kind was in operation in some parts of East London, and a central committee had proposed to the Government Committee for the Relief of Distress a scheme for the provision of sick-room helps. The Government Committee readily approved the scheme; a small grant had been made for experimental purposes, and the first trial was being inaugurated that day at Plaistow. Women were being trained, they would be paid a wage, and would be sent to look after homes while the mothers were laid up. He should rejoice to see that system widely extended, because it would save much discomfort and neglect. It would give employment, at the cost of the Prince of Wales's Fund, to many unemployed women during the war."

Finally, Mr. Samuel assured the deputation that the matters brought to his notice had been brought before the Government Committee, which took a very sympathetic view of the case. As an outcome of the deputation he proposed to send a further communication to all the local representative committees throughout the country, drawing their attention to the claims of mothers, and making suggestions which he hoped would be widely adopted.

THE QUEEN'S "WORK FOR WOMEN" FUND.

Town Girls for the Country.

One of the most interesting experiments which owes its origin to the outbreak of the war is that of taking factory girls from the dismal, over-crowded conditions of industrial towns to the fresh air and vigorous life of the country. In the far West of England a factory is being created in which the working women of surrounding districts find a new employment in all forms of fruit-pulping, in drying vegetables, in bottling new unsweetened fruit preserves. By means of this work hundreds of tons of fruit which would otherwise have been wasted have been dealt with, supplies for the army and other public sources provided, and a trade hitherto centred in Germany, developed in this country. It is hoped that within a short time this industry will be established on a paying basis, and probably 100 girls will be enjoying the healthy life of the country.

Closer at hand, at Radlett, in Herts., East London girls will soon be hard at work developing a good acreage of land with fruit and vegetables and flowers. Here the girls will be under the direction of two lady gardeners, who will train them in this work with a view to establishing them as skilled market gardeners and fruit growers in the future.

The Central Committee for Women's Employment is for a limited time paying the wages of the workers until they shall be ready for good employment elsewhere, and their work shall give them a livelihood without further assistance. The care of the Committee does not end with the payment of wages, but they keep careful supervision as to the comfort and well-being of these young women, many of them between eighteen and twenty, who are necessarily away from their homes.

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Any further information may be had on application. W. W. HAYES, *Manager.*

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

SUFFRAGISTS SEND FOOD SHIP FOR FLUSHING.

At the meeting of the Committee of the Eastern Counties Federation at Cambridge, on October 16th, Miss Harris (N.U. Organiser) told how the International Suffrage Alliance, on whose behalf she was speaking (in place of Miss Sheepshanks), had fitted out a food ship at twenty-four hours' notice for the starving refugees at Flushing.

It came about in this wise. Miss Walshe, of the I.W.S.A. has been going to and fro, escorting foreign girls and women back to their respective countries, and bringing young English girls back in exchange, by permission of the various Governments. On her way back from the last journey she discovered the terrible conditions at Flushing, where (according to one estimate) 80,000 refugees were lying on the docks, waiting in vain for boats to take them to England, or for succour of some kind. The Dutch women were doing what they could, but it was impossible to cope with the situation. The people were literally starving. Miss Walshe reported the facts at the office of the I.W.S.A. early one morning. It happened that the treasury was practically empty. After brief consultation, the Belgian Relief Committee was applied to, and £500 was at once offered. Mrs. Thomasson strolled in, in the course of the morning, with a cheque from herself of £200; Mrs. Pennington brought a cheque for £100, Mr. Lyons offered £100 worth of bread, Mr. Epps a ton of cocoa, Nestlé's a number of tins of milk, and by the evening the ship was fitted up with £500 of food, as well as a number of bales of clothing, supplied from the National Union's workrooms. Miss Chrystal Macmillan dealt with the custom house and harbour dues authorities to such purpose that the usual heavy tolls for the exportation of foodstuffs were entirely remitted, and a devoted band of five women set out that same night, with the precious freight. They knew that they themselves would not find beds to sleep in, and would, of course, be reduced to short food rations. Moreover, they ran some risk of being mobbed by the refugees, who were almost mad with privations. Needless to say, the five women left behind were only too disappointed at not being allowed, so to speak, in the firing line.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE FOR ICELAND.

The following telegram has been received by the International Women's Franchise Alliance :—

"Women's Franchise Bill passed by Althing. Expect King's sanction."

WOMEN'S POLITICAL WORK IN NORWAY.

We have received the following from a Norwegian correspondent :—

"I had intended to send you a report of our National Norwegian Women's Suffrage Association Conference in Christiania on July 6th and 7th, but I will only tell you that it was carried unanimously that our Association shall continue to work, although it has completed its first task for full Suffrage for women. It will continue to work for women's [success?] in the political and municipal elections; for rousing their interest in public matters; for new election laws that are necessary if women candidates are to be elected Members of Parliament; for new laws concerning sexual crimes (the women being *now* punished while the men are not—their punishment being almost nothing compared with their crime); for new laws concerning crimes committed against children, such crimes are now punished very leniently; further, to work against separate prohibition of night work for women, as a Bill for such prohibition is now to be considered by a Committee of the House; further, to collect a fund for women's professional education; further, to propagate for an obligatory learning of cooking and housekeeping for all young women of the nation, as a parallel of the obligatory service of all young men. This work is especially necessary, as the time is now past when all young women learnt in their homes these accomplishments, so necessary for the health and hygiene of the nation . . . but I think it will prove the most difficult of all our tasks to carry through so great a reform. Further, to work for reading rooms and churches for the Norwegian sailors in foreign harbours, a very necessary work, both from a moral and an economic point of view. . . . Here in Norway we have all the time known that the greater part of the work had to be done *after* we had got the franchise."

INFANT MORTALITY

Number of children per thousand who died in Norway under the age of one year old :—

1890 :	98·2	...	...	1901 :	92·9	Women's Municipal Suffrage.
1891 :	97·2	...	...	1902 :	75·0	
1892 :	104·7	...	...	1903 :	79·	
1893 :	88·9	...	...	1904 :	75·5	
1894 :	103·8	...	...	1905 :	81·3	
1895 :	96	...	...	1906 :	69·4	
1896 :	96·4	...	...	1907 :	66·6	Women's Political Suffrage.
1897 :	97	...	...	1908 :	76	
1898 :	91	...	...	1909 :	71·5	
1899 :	105	...	...	1910 :	67·4	Full Municipal Suffrage.
1900 :	90·3	...	...	1911 :	65·1	

Correspondence.

A large amount of correspondence is unavoidably held over. It is necessary to remind our readers that there is no editorial responsibility for opinions expressed in the correspondence columns.

WOMEN AND WAR DISTRESS, DEBTS, RENTS, AND BAILIFFS.

Madam,—In view of the large number of women who are unemployed through the war, will you allow me to state for the information and help of those who may be pressed by harsh landlords and creditors, or hired-furniture dealers and Insurance agents, that a pamphlet, *The War and Distress: How to Save Your Homes*, explaining all about the Courts' Emergency Powers Act, can be had by sending three halfpence in stamps to the National Living Wage Party, 76, George Street, Hulme, Manchester.

S. Mortimer Holden.

THE DEMAND FOR DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

Madam,—I notice under the heading of "Help for Domestic Servants" a note in The Common Cause as to the opening of a Bureau by the Domestic Servants' Association, and think that if that Association would really assist unemployed servants to the places which are at the present time open to them, much good might be done.

Seeing a letter in *The Times* a short time ago to the same effect, I wrote to the Association informing them of the extreme difficulty in obtaining servants in the country, and that I and friends at the present time were doing all that was possible to obtain cooks, without result, and asking them if they could assist one of the unemployed and myself at the same time. I have had a postcard acknowledging receipt of my letter, but nothing further, and fear that the Association have been unable to do anything. This is much what I expected from a perusal of the advertisement columns in the London and country papers, but is it advisable that appeals for money should be made when so many servants could find places? I saw one cook ten days ago, who said she had had letters from "dozens of ladies." It is well known to employers that there is no lack of employment for suitable servants, and as a member of the Local Committee of the N.U.W.S.S., I thought it only right that this point of view should be brought before you.

Gethyn H. Harrison.

WOMEN'S PEACE MOVEMENT.

Madam,—My critics appear to think it is my desire that the National Union should initiate a peace movement among women to call for the cessation of hostilities. I tried to avoid that suggestion, and my letter was only intended as an appeal to those within the Union who are satisfied that war is a brutal and hideous method of settling disputes. I do not want the demand to be made only by women. It should be made by all who hold the opinions I have outlined, but I do think that upon women holding these opinions falls the responsibility of voicing them. If any of the plans and schemes now under consideration are to succeed, I am convinced it must be one international in character, and it must know no distinction of sex, class, or race.

The demand that this wasteful, destructive, and wholesale, even if scientific, sacrifice of life shall cease among so-called civilised nations, and saner, nobler methods of settling disputes be adopted, must be made in the name of humanity, for the sake of all that humanists are supposed to hold dear.

Others agree in principle, but declare the time is not yet ripe. They seem to forget that such a movement can only appeal to those who have no doubts about the futility of war, even as a means of attaining the ends it sets out to encompass. When once we are convinced of this futility, we no longer expect to reap any of the results predicted by the apologists of this unholy conflict, but to gather the usual harvests sown by every war which has been waged by the human race.

The other objections, based on Imperialism and the necessity of crushing the military spirit of Germany, are the usual stock arguments which those of us who are opposed to war meet every day. If at the end of over one thousand years of Christianity we are prepared to subscribe to these arguments, then for me, at least, Christianity means a miserable failure, and the brotherhood of man a will-o'-the-wisp. I hope my heart is warm. I know my head is cool, and has become cooler since I was advised to call myself a traitor. That, somehow, is just what I cannot do.

I cannot join in the cry of a righteous war, waged for the rights of little nations. Does anyone really believe that statesmen and diplomatists take countries into war for the sake of little nations? I am hard-headed enough to believe that when those who control the destinies of nations consider it is for the interest of a nation to go to war, then to war that nation goes. A successful war must be a popular war, and the rights of little nations—honour, glory, patriotism, freedom, justice—are all excellent battle-cries, and help us to lose our heads and shout with the multitude. I believe that when a popular English General on October 22nd, 1912, said, "Germany will strike when Germany's hour has struck . . . it is an excellent policy, gentlemen, and is or should be the policy of every nation prepared to play a great part in history," he had a truer sense of the reasons which lead nations into war than those who have not yet realised and got into true perspective the part assigned to little nations and their rights.

N. O'Shea.

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Chair: Mrs. FREDERICK WHELEN.
Speakers:
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Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY. Mr. H. BAILLIE-WEAVER.
Mrs. ISRAEL ZANGWILL.
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All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, *2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

How to Help.

We all want to help. Some of us do not know how.

Will readers of The Common Cause help us to bring this knowledge within the reach of all? No other paper is doing it as we propose to do it, and believe we *can* do it if our public will help us. The ordinary press, though eager to tell us "what women can do" in time of war, is singularly unimaginative for the most part, and careful study of the information imparted will hardly be enlightening to those who are not enlightened already. Yet we all want to help.

It is the intention of The Common Cause to give, week by week, accounts of the work that women are doing in such detail that other women will learn from it how to set to work themselves. We shall make it our business to find out how help may be given with the greatest effect, and the least dislocation of ordinary industry; how workers may be trained, and where; how the life of the nation may be sustained and cherished for the future, when the war shall have ceased to drain it away. This work must be done, and it will fall very largely upon the women—the women who are in many cases untrained to meet it. It will be our business to show, with the help of experts, how their devotion may be used. War falls with most harshness on the poor, and especially on the wives, the mothers, and the families of those at the front. Not only are these women suffering themselves, but their suffering is bound to react on the next generation. To preserve the life of the race is the sacred duty of all women, and their influence must be exerted to secure the recognition by the State of its responsibility in this matter.

All this we want The Common Cause to do. But our paper—which had become, immediately before the outbreak of war, a financial asset to the National Union—has necessarily suffered from the pressure of other interests and other work, and the nervousness of advertisers. We have been obliged to reduce the number of our pages, and we cannot be one-half as useful as we should be to our readers if we had more space at our command.

We appeal, then, especially for help (1) to sell the paper in the streets; (2) to pay unemployed women to sell and advertise the paper, especially in London.

The first need is to bring the paper before the public by persistent advertising. Women now out of work can put in several hours a week selling the paper and carrying one of our posters, and can still seek employment during the rest of their time. Ten shillings a week will give this invaluable part-time employment to one woman, and be a magnificent advertisement to The Common Cause. Could we not have one hundred women working in London every week? Will not everyone *who wants to help and does not know how,* sell the paper themselves, or send money for others to sell it? All over the country, The Common Cause should go, suggesting ways of help, showing how help is being given, recording the share of women in the work that must be done.

KINGSWAY HALL MEETING.

Speaking from the chair, Mrs. Fawcett said :—

"It has often been remarked that one of the calamities of war is that it paralyses the natural healthy development of social and political reform. The younger Pitt would probably have been a great reform minister if it had not been that his energies were absorbed in all the best years of his life by the great struggle against Napoleon. In his short 'Life of Pitt,' Lord Rosebery says '*War is a hideous engrossing fact: it cannot be paltered with. Too much or too little. . . . is treason against it: it must have all: every nerve, every muscle, every fibre.*' We are in the throes of a similar great struggle to-day, and we feel anew the truth of these words. Every one, every man, every woman, every human being, without distinction of sex or class, must do his or her part; no section of the nation must be omitted. There is one fine thing about this. It solders the whole nation together. Even Mr. Asquith, not generally very forward to recognise the citizenship of women, sees this; for he said at Cardiff, 'Every man and every woman is called upon to make his or her contribution, to do his or her share.' The share women have in the awful sufferings caused by war has always been perceived by those who also have eyes and hearts, all down the ages, certainly ever since the writing of the Greek play, *The Trojan Women*. But the important national contribution of women in grappling with the difficulties, and partially, at any rate, mitigating the evils and misfortunes which war brings in its train is a modern discovery. It is part of the women's movement, to which so many of us have been proud to give our lives."

Mrs. Fawcett went on to point out that "this is the first time in our history that the Government has formed a committee consisting entirely of women, whose duty it is to grapple with the difficulties of remedying economic distress." In conclusion, she said :—

"Now, we often say and feel that nature and society combine to put a heavy handicap on women. However true this may be in many cases it is not true of women's work in war. This is one of the few cases in which nature and society combine to give women the best of it, and not the worst. Far be it from me to minimise the awful sufferings of women in war time. But they have one immense overwhelming blessing in this, that while the necessary, inevitable work of men as combatants is to spread death, destruction, red ruin, desolation and sorrow untold, the work of women is the exact opposite. It is, when we have the strength to understand it and grapple with it, to help, to assuage, to preserve, to build up the desolate home, to bind up the broken lives, to serve the State by saving life rather than by destroying it. When it is looked at from this broad point of view, will not everyone agree that the work of women in war is more enviable than the work of men?

Miss Geraldine Cooke gave an account of the work being done by the N.U.W.S.S., which she summed up in a sentence: "The N.U. has not dismissed any of its paid workers: it has engaged new ones. It has done nothing to add to unemployment: it has done much to diminish it."

Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton spoke of the work done by the War Refugees Committee, which has now been taken over by the Government, and "not done half so well!" The work is exhausting and hard, between 6,000 and 10,000 letters being received daily. Mrs. Lyttelton spoke of the terrible sufferings of the refugees, and urged women to bring up their children in future to a real conception of chivalry and mercy.

Dr. Inglis moved :—

"That the National Union protests indignantly against the suggestion of the Plymouth Watch Committee that the Contagious Diseases Acts should be re-enacted, and opposes any proposal to re-introduce either by Acts of Parliament or by administrative order any of these methods discredited by the best European medical opinion."

This was, she said, a resolution which needed hardly any speaking to, before such an audience as this. She hoped that the women of the country would never consent to the revival of these infamous Acts, not only for the sake of womanhood, but for the sake of the moral standard of our lads. Never would they agree to teach these boys that their bodies were of more importance than their souls.

Dr. Inglis went on to appeal for funds for the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospital. Our own Red Cross was apparently fully equipped, but the case of our Allies was different. In Servia, an Englishwoman who has taken out some nurses, telegraphs that wounds cannot be dressed oftener than every two or three days, because they are actually short of lint and bandages. The Belgian Army is in urgent need of help, and an hospital such as she proposed was invited to Antwerp before its fall, by the Belgian Government.

Miss Royden seconded the resolution moved by Dr. Inglis, and urged the necessity of clear thinking as well as hard work. Suffragists had never been satisfied to deal with results only, but had always sought at the same time to get at causes. If this were so in the case of sweating, prostitution, and other

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social sores, it was equally their duty to consider the causes of war, as well as to try to relieve the worst of its effects. Relief work must be done, and they were all doing it; but if relief work were to be the whole contribution made by Suffragists to this great national crisis, she thought they no longer deserved to be Suffragists at all. Every woman should be thinking of the causes which lead to wars, and helping to form public opinion, so that when peace came it should not contain the seeds of war.

Mrs. Auerbach (Hon. Treasurer, N.U.W.S.S.) appealed for funds to carry on the great work that the N.U. was doing.

Miss Sheepshanks (International W. S. Alliance), in an admirable speech, gave an appalling account of the burden which Holland was shouldering. In one province, with 300,000 inhabitants, there were 400,000 refugees. In a village with 800 inhabitants, 2,000 refugees. The situation was impossible, and it was clear that the Belgians must either come here or return to Belgium, where their sons would be liable to German military service, and their daughters would be unsafe. Public opinion in Great Britain should demand their coming here, and should back the demand by large offers of hospitality from municipal authorities.

Mrs. Hills urged the claims of the National Care of Maternity scheme. She showed how many babies' lives had been saved in the last seven years by preventive measures, schools for mothers, &c., and said this saving of life might be doubled and trebled if we would. She would like to publish a double roll—"a roll of honour, of men who died for their country; and a roll of shame, of the babies who died because they were not given a chance of life."

Miss I. O. Ford spoke of the international character of the Women's Movement, which "transcended caste, and sex, and race," and pleaded for love rather than revenge in our attitude towards other countries. She told a touching story of the kindliness of French and German soldiers to each other, and brought the meeting to an enthusiastic close by striking a note of sympathy, to which the audience visibly responded.

THE BRITISH BRANCH.

International Federation for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice.

The following letter has been sent by Dr. Helen Wilson to the Town Clerk of Plymouth:—

Dear Sir,—To-day, having heard that a resolution in favour of reimposing the C.D. Acts was to be introduced in your Town Council, I sent you a telegram in the following terms:—

"British Branch Abolitionist Federation urges Plymouth Town Council to refrain from passing resolution in favour of C.D. Acts till after reading evidence as to failure of system, which will be sent at once. Those Acts, or systems practically identical, have been condemned as useless for preserving health by Medical Advisory Council of British Army, by Royal Commission in Sweden, by official commissions in France and United States, and by International Medical Congress, and have been abolished with good results in Norway, Denmark, Italy, Holland, as well as England. Advocacy of obsolete methods has no effects except to hinder true line of reform."

I may remind you that in October, 1913, the Government appointed a Royal Commission on the question of venereal disease, in response to the request of about fifty leading doctors. In appointing it, they expressly stipulated that no report of the policy or practices of the C.D. Acts was to be taken into consideration. This prohibition may have been influenced partly by the well-known moral objections to the C.D. Acts, but it was much more largely based on the strong opinions now held by the leading medical authorities, and expressed with special definiteness in the International Medical Congress held in London in August, 1913. (See red pamphlet enclosed.)

That Commission has received a mass of evidence, some of which has been published, but it has not yet presented a report. I think that those who are interested in the prevention of venereal disease would find it worth while to study the volume of evidence issued by the Royal Commission in June, Cd. 7,475. "Appendix of the First Report of Commissioners," Minutes of Evidence.

You will find the general arguments against the system of the C.D. Acts very ably set forth in the enclosed green pamphlet. "Preventive Hygiene." When I tell you that this pamphlet has, to my certain knowledge, been read by several members of the Cabinet and by the Royal Commission, the movers of the resolution may probably think it worth while to make themselves acquainted with these arguments. . . .

I understand that some old residents in Plymouth—doctors and others—believe that things were much better in your port while the C.D. Acts were in operation. If this be so (and I profess to no knowledge on that subject), in view of the world-wide testimony as to the failure of the system in practically every other town, it would seem worth while to inquire whether there were not *other* conditions in Plymouth during those years to which the better results may more reasonably be attributed.—Yours faithfully,

Helen Wilson, M.D., Hon. Sec.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Work in Leeds.

A few days after war broke out a small meeting of women was called by the Lady Mayoress to organise women's work in the city during the war. A provisional committee was appointed, which started a registry for voluntary workers, a scheme for visiting the wives and families of men on service, and a department for providing garments and other needs for hospitals and troops.

At a very large public meeting of over 3,000 women in the Town Hall on August 11th, the Lady Mayoress's Committee was appointed and began to organise and develop the work already started. An executive was formed, to meet twice a week, and a number of sub-committees were appointed to carry out the schemes of the executive and report to it. The general committee meets at intervals when necessary, and has general control of policy. A large number of societies have thrown in their lot with the Committee, among others, the Leeds University, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, the National Union of Women Workers, the Leeds Babies' Welcome Association, the Charity Organisation Society, the Adult Schools, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Women's Guild of Christian Service, the Salvation Army, the Leeds City Mission, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education.

It has been found necessary to raise a fund for the part of the work which does not come under the scope of the Prince of Wales's Fund, but the Committee is working in complete co-operation with the Lord Mayor's Committee, on which four of its members sit. At first the Committee had offices in the Town Hall, but these were necessarily inconvenient, and the offer of excellent offices made by a firm, rent and rate free, were accepted.

The work of sub-committees is approaching complete organisation. The Visiting Sub-committee has rooms in the Education Office, where it is thoroughly in touch with the relief work carried out through the Education Department. The town has been divided into twenty-six districts, each of which has a district head, and a body of visitors. These undertake to visit the dependants of soldiers and sailors and send in reports fortnightly. Over 5,000 families' names have been given to the Committee by the relief stations, and some hundreds of others are being visited which have never applied for relief. Incalculably good work is done by the giving of sympathy and friendly advice to those in difficulties. The organisation of this work has been a difficult task, and the regular and constant help of voluntary workers is much appreciated.

The Clothing and Hospital Needs Sub-committee is now working in close co-operation with the St. John's Ambulance Depôt at Leeds. All goods are sent to and distributed through it, but only orders made or endorsed by the Committee are carried out in the case of goods supplied by them. The Second Northern General Hospital has been generously supplied with bedgowns, bedjackets, extra blankets, many and varied kinds of bandages, and other needs, while other supplies have gone to the hospital trains, to the local Territorial regiments, and to the front. The bandage-rolling department, which is carried on under the superintendence of trained nurses in a room lent for the purpose, is a delight to the visitor.

A Maternity Sub-committee has established a nursery for soldiers' children temporarily uncared for by the illness or the incapacity of the mother. A house has been very kindly lent, and there are twelve babies now in residence. The matron and staff give their services. This sub-committee is also organising dinner centres for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under school age. For both these purposes the Lady Mayoress's Committee is receiving grants from the Prince of Wales's Fund.

Accommodation has been given at the Central Office to the Belgian Refugee Committee, for the storing and distribution of clothing. This is being organised by a member of the Lady Mayoress's Committee. Through the efforts of the Lady Mayoress's Committee, a representative sub-committee of the Lord Mayor's Committee has been appointed, to form and administer schemes for women's employment, subject to the approval of the Central Committee for Women's Employment. The Lady Mayoress is, therefore, opening a branch of the Queen's Work for Women Fund.

The Honorary Secretaries of the Committee are Mrs. Renton, Organising Secretary of the West Riding Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies, and Miss S. K. Findlay, Organising Secretary of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education, their respective societies having lent their services.

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(THE MEDICAL MAGAZINE)

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

The Press and the War.

The National Union has lent the use of its offices to the Press Contributors' Emergency Fund, which is doing valuable work in relieving distress amongst journalists who are out of work owing to the war. The strict censorship of the Press, the concentration of attention on military news, and the dislocation of trade which seriously affects advertisements, have all contributed to depress the demand for journalistic work other than that directly connected with the war. The Secretary of the Fund would be glad to hear of any suitable paid posts in connection with literary and journalistic work, in libraries, as secretaries, investigators, or organisers. All communications should be addressed to Miss Hall, Press Contributors' Emergency Fund, Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

Finding Employment.

We have been successful in finding employment for quite a number of women this week. Several of these were out of our workrooms, and their places have been filled by others. Of these, the majority were placed in domestic service, among them one woman in whom a branch of the Charity Organisation Society is interested, and whom we were able to place almost immediately. A man and his wife have been placed in a comfortable position as housekeeper and porter, and two Government Offices have also applied to us for typists, who were forthwith supplied from headquarters.

Quite a fair proportion of the clerks who applied to us have now found work, we ourselves having placed twelve during the week.

Hospitality.

A most generous response has been made to Miss Griesbach's request for hospitality for two ladies.

A French lady would be grateful for hospitality and a complete rest for a fortnight or so, and then would be glad to obtain a post as companion, or companion housekeeper. She has excellent references and is very capable and experienced. Please write to Miss Harris, at the National Union.

Will anyone provide a temporary home for a baby boy (2½ years old) subject to bronchitis? Father ill and out of work, mother expecting her tenth child next month. All particulars from Mrs. Hills, 9, Elsworthy Terrace, N.W

Active Service League Shop, 50, Parliament Street.

Three splendid gifts of flannel have been received this week, one from Miss Brock, one from Mrs. Illingworth, and one from Miss Holland, and there has also been a generous response to the request for nightgowns. Miss Margaret Ashton has given us six, "off her own back"; the very best thing we can wish the recipients is that Miss Ashton's mantle may descend upon them! Various very useful parcels of second-hand clothes, including quite a number of boots and shoes, have also been received. We have had one rather interesting order for twenty blankets composed of two sheets of brown paper, with a layer of wadding between, the blankets stitched round and caught down with stitches in the centre. They were intended as a temporary expedient for a hostel for Belgians. Another order is for emergency pillows, stuffed with rags and wadding, to be ready in a very short time.

We have this week partially equipped several women, for whom we have got situations in domestic service, and who had no suitable clothes. We shall be very glad to receive presents of cast-off print dresses, aprons, and caps, in reasonably good condition, as we had not enough of these on hand to supply the want.

We have for sale at the shop a very handsome hand-made bedspread for a double bed, of crochet and braid, part of the proceeds of which are to be given to the Active Service Fund. Please come and inspect it. It is worth twice what is being asked.

We have been given a wolf stole and muff to be sold for £1 1s. for the Active Service Fund. Who will buy?

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1,750	6	7
Mrs. A. M. Drew	5	0	0
Miss Ridley		4	0
Mrs. Bellby, monthly donation £1 (3 months in advance) ...	3	0	0
F. M. W., monthly donation £2 (3 months in advance) ...	6	0	0
Miss M. Morin	1	10	0
Winscombe W.S.S.	5	0	0
Mrs. W. H. P. Stevens	1	0	0
Anonymous		10	0
Miss A. Marian Hewitt... ...	1	0	0
Dr. Winifrid C. Cullis		10	6
Miss G. M. Willis	1	0	0
Miss M. A. Hooke...		5	0
Anonymous		3	4
Mrs. Shelton		5	0
Cambridge University Old Students' W.S.S.—			
Miss M. Donaile		15	0
Mrs. N. MacLehose		4	0
Miss M. Ridley	1	0	0
Miss E. Dodd		10	0
Miss I. P. Scott		5	0
Miss E. Wright		5	0
Mrs. Rathbone	1	0	0
Miss M. E. Doran		2	6
Miss M. E. Barwell		5	0
Miss K. Browning		5	0
Miss J. C. Hubback		3	6
Miss A. C. U. Richards ...		2	6
Miss C. A. Simmins		5	0
Miss D. M. Payne		10	0
Mrs. G. Bidder	1	0	0
Miss A. M. C. Marshall ...		5	0
Miss M. L. Mackenzie... ...		4	6
Miss Margery Smith	1	1	0
Mrs. E. A. Bishop...	5	0	0
Hunts W.S.S., part proceeds of Jumble Sale	1	5	0
Miss L. J. Chudleigh		10	6
Miss E. L. Johns		10	6
Mrs. Godfrey J. H. Lloyd ...	1	0	0
Miss Dorothea Macdonald ...	2	2	0
Filey W.S.S. additional:—			
Mrs. Denby		5	0
"A Sympathiser"	1	1	0
Miss M. Beatrice Thomas ...	2	2	0
Mrs. Robert Davidson	3	10	0
Miss Winifred Woodcock ...		5	0
Miss A. D. Scott	1	0	0
South Wales and Monmouth Federation	2	0	0
Mrs. A. K. Barfoot		10	0
Anonymous	3	10	0
Miss E. M. Duncan (3rd donation)	1	0	0
At 50 Parliament Street:—			
Miss A. R. Bonham		5	0
Mrs. Buchanan	2	0	0
Miss McMurtrie...	1	0	0
Miss P. S. Goode		10	0
Per Miss Hamilton, collected		10	0
Miss Nellie Gough		2	6
Anonymous		16	6
Miss G. M. Clayton		5	0
Mr. George Newsom		5	0
Miss Katharine Duncombe ...	1	0	0
Miss Mary Moore	4	0	0
Miss Chittick	1	1	0
Miss Fenwick and Mrs. Finke	1	0	0
Miss H. M. Adshead	20	0	0
Miss Sibly	2	2	0
Miss A. B. Sibly	2	2	0
	£1,848	7	5

Miss Hewitt has also sent £1 for the Belgian Relief Fund and £1 for the Serbian Relief Fund, and these amounts have been forwarded to the respective Legations.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" SELLING.

A list of important London pitches is kept at the Shop, 50, Parliament Street, and at the "C.C." office, and we can do with any number of volunteers. Every seller should be provided with a poster (to be obtained with the papers), which, pasted on cardboard, can be slung on the wrist.

Depots Arranged.

MARBLE ARCH DEPOT.—Copies can now be obtained at 44, Great Cumberland Place, W., on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, between 2-3 p.m.

HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, DEPOT.—Mrs. Hogg, 23, Hornton Street, High Street, Kensington, has kindly consented to provide this depôt, and copies, posters, and bags can now be obtained here for High Street, Kensington, and district selling.

W.C. DISTRICT.—Mrs. Paul, 45, Regent's Square, W.C., has kindly consented to take charge of the Holborn and S. St. Pancras District. Mrs. Paul will be glad of additional volunteers, as this district contains some splendid pitches. Mrs. Paul will distribute papers to helpers any day except Sunday.

CITY DEPOT.—Miss Gertrude Cohn, c/o The South-West Africa Co., 1, London Wall Buildings, E.C. Miss Cohn has kindly consented to distribute papers to sellers and receive the returns, &c. Any member who can spare only half-an-hour when passing through the City is urged to call on Miss Cohn, who will give full particulars.

A Splendid Example.

The Leicester and Leicestershire W.S.S. is supplying copies of The Common Cause to the seven Municipal Free Libraries in Leicestershire, and is also sending it (through newsagents) to the Secretaries of all the branches of the I.L.P. in Leicestershire, except in the Melton Division.

LONDON SOCIETY'S MOTOR AMBULANCE.

Some members and friends of the London Society for Women's Suffrage have united to present a Motor Ambulance in the name of the Society in response to Lord Rothschild's appeal. The car, which is a Peugeot, 1913 pattern, fulfils all Red Cross requirements, and will be christened "The London Suffragist."

A fund for the purchase of medical stores has been opened with a special gift of £5 for chloroform, and contributions from 6d. upwards are invited, and should be addressed to Mrs. Kinnell at 58, Victoria Street, S.W. Gifts of bandages, Thermos flasks, hot-water bottles, and blankets or rugs would be gratefully received. Sets of air-cushions and fine blankets are already promised. We are quite sure of the hearty support of all Suffragists in sending out this representative to the front, and count on their co-operation in making her worthy of her name, fit to go anywhere and do anything in the service of the needy.

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Obituary.

The Misses Priestman.

There is a special pathos in the death of the Misses Priestman, the one outliving the other by only a few days, after a long life together in such close union that it seemed impossible for either to live alone. They were among the earliest pioneers of the Suffrage movement, and it is not too much to say that their lives were consecrated to the work of women's enfranchisement. It was doubtless partly their inheritance of the Quaker doctrine of the spiritual equality of the sexes that bore fruit in their life-long and ardent advocacy of the principle that women are needed in national life on a basis of political freedom. Coming to Bristol from Newcastle-on-Tyne, they found a Suffrage Society already started, and it was soon made a centre of activity for the West of England, with Miss Helen Blackburn as Secretary, and Miss Maria Colby as Organiser. Miss Priestman raised a sum of £1,000 for work in the west, and many speaking tours were arranged, among the speakers being Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Hallett, then Miss Lilias Ashworth, and the late Miss Emily Sturge. It was indeed a kind of forecast of Federation work. As President of the Bristol Women's Liberal Association, formed in 1882, Miss Priestman upheld the same principle, that women's place in politics should not be merely auxiliary, but based on the demand for direct representation.

Miss Mary Priestman, together with her sister, the late Mrs. Arthur Tanner, was closely associated with Mrs. Josephine Butler's work for the Repeal of State Regulation of Vice, and during the struggle of seventeen years, she gave herself untiringly to that "great crusade." She was also keenly interested in a Home of Rest for Women, a Voluntary Lock Hospital, and a branch of the B.W.T.A.

By those who had the privilege of more intimate acquaintance and friendship, they will always be remembered as the most perfect hostesses, the most sympathetic of friends. And the world is the poorer, both in public and private life, for the loss of these two noble women, whose high ideals and unflagging zeal never failed.

Mrs. Hardman.

The Deal and Walmer Society regret to announce the death of their Literature Secretary, Mrs. Hardman. She was a keen Suffragist, and worked hard for the cause. Her loss will be very keenly felt.

Eastern Counties Federation Report of Work.

The Secretaries of the various Societies belonging to the Eastern Counties Federation met at Cambridge on Friday, October 16th. Mrs. Rackham kindly threw open her house, and entertained the members of the meeting at tea. The occasion was most inspiriting. Some of us have been perhaps feeling that the Suffrage cause was too much in abeyance. But the account given of the active work done in almost every Society dispelled such an idea The N.U. Societies have been represented on almost every Relief Committee in their respective localities, and numerous special activities have been undertaken by the Societies in their own capacity. The Suffrage tent for recreation and light refreshments for the soldiers quartered in Cambridge during August realised a profit of £28, which was given to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Relief Association. At Norwich the President of the Society is a member of the Lord Mayor's Committee. Special efforts here have been made to deal with the unemployment of women, and the Society by opening a workroom has been able to pass on a good number of women to the fishing and factory work, to army clothing and tailoring jobs, and to work as waitresses. The distress in Norwich is greater apparently than in almost any other part of the Eastern Counties. At Stevenage, eleven N.U. members are on the local relief committee out of a total of eighteen. The Society has specialised in providing clothes and funds for Belgian refugees. A rummage sale realised £15 for this purpose. At Lowestoft, where in one day about 1,500 refugees suddenly arrived in every kind of small craft, and about the same number on the following day, the Society is preparing a Belgian Badge day. At Ipswich, a club room is being opened for soldiers' wives by the N.U. in co-operation with other local societies. At Romford, a reading circle is being proposed, to keep members together, this being an infant society. At Hunstanton, two members out of a total of five are on the Relief Committee, and on the Prince of Wales's Fund Committee. In East Herts, cheap cookery lectures, weekly collections for refugees, and girls' clubs are being concentrated upon. The only jarring note came from N. and E. Essex, where two hospitals, splendidly equipped and arranged for in every detail by Red Cross ladies, members of the N.U. Society, were reported as having been disbanded by the War Office orders, after being apparently accepted. The moderate tone taken by the Secretary, Miss Courtauld, who related this incident of Government muddling, was an admirable lesson of patience to those of us who incline towards impulsive indiscretions. In short, the record of work done and proposed in all quarters was most encouraging.

Bridgenorth.—We regret that an account of work done by the Bridgenorth W.S.S. was wrongly headed "Bridport."

Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock, encloses list of subscriptions to October 17th, with names and addresses of subscribers, amounting to £276 1s. 3d. Promises of further subscriptions of over £100 are also to hand, but not yet received.

Gifts of equipment for the hospital units have also been received from Mrs. Auerbach, Miss Osborne, Exeter W.S.S., Bristol W.S.S., Miss Walker, Miss Webster, Miss Zimmern, Miss Dunn, Mrs. Welsh, and others.

All articles suitable for use in hospitals, whether for patients or in wards, will be very gratefully received. Amongst these may be mentioned sheets, blankets, pillows, pillow-cases, shirts (flannel or cotton), pyjama suits, loose hospital suits, socks and bed socks, mufflers, soft slippers, vests, jerseys, belts, waterproof sheets, hot water bags, instruments, surgical dressings, sterilisers, cutlery, &c.

Promises of two motor ambulances have also been received, and a motor capable of towing a barge with wounded on the canals. More are wanted. It is confidently hoped that the money to get these units away with as little delay as possible will be forthcoming immediately :—

First List of Subscriptions, received by Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock, Hon. Treasurer.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Tennant, Renton House, Cambridge		16	0
Miss Fortey, Beltrees High School Greenock	10	0	0
Greenock W.S.S., Collection at Meeting	7	0	0
D. Kerr, Esq., Heywood, Greenock	2	0	0
J. Kerr, Esq., Westfield, Greenock	1	0	0
Mrs. Laurie, Red House, Greenock	1	0	0
Miss Paton, Mansfield, Largs		6	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Farquhar, St. Margaret's, Bridge of Weir	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Todd, Headington, Bridge of Weir	1	0	0
Miss Elliott, Beaumont Villa, Dunbar		2	0
Mrs. Auerbach, London	1	1	0
Miss Goodrich, Whitehall Road, Colwyn Bay		5	0
Lady Stormonth Darling, Pitlochry	5	0	0
Miss Mellis, 43, Cromwell Street, Gloucester		10	0
Mrs. Robertson, Morningside, Kilmarnock	1	1	0
Miss Lawson, 88, Eastern Avenue, Reading	2	0	0
Miss Messier, Churchwood, Beckett's Park, Leeds	2	0	0
Miss Bury, Sunnyside, Dornoch		10	0
Miss Sharp, Overton, Haddington	2	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Primrose Walker, 41, Inverleith Road, Edinburgh	1	1	0
Miss Agnes M. B. Teacher, 11, Montgomerie Drive, Glasgow, to name a bed "The Elizabeth L. Teacher" Bed	50	0	0
Miss M. A. Taylor, 110, Sandyford Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne		5	0
Miss Brand, 5, Mansionhouse Road, Edinburgh	3	0	0
Miss B. Fairbridge, Fairfield, Moat Road, East Grinstead	1	1	0
Mrs. and Miss Rackham, 40, Lorley Road, Wandsworth Common, London	1	0	0
Mrs. Percy Cresswell, Thornton Hall, Lanarkshire	1	0	0
Mrs. Georgette Agnew, 18, Gloucester Square, Hyde Park, London	10	0	0
Miss Hilda Hudson, 82, Ham Park Road, Forest Gate, London	10	0	0
Miss Janie Allan, Prestwick, Ayrshire	5	0	0
Miss Burt, 34, Queen Anne Street, Dunfermline	1	0	0
Misses E. J. and E. K. Sinclair, Stromsay, Pinner, Middlesex		10	0
Miss Alice Zimmern, 45, Clevedon Mansions, London		10	6
Miss and Miss Jessie Barker, Sunnybank, Scarborough	2	0	0
Miss Marion Lenton, Coyleton, Clifton, Bristol	5	0	0
Miss Shepherd, 1, Amen Court, St. Pauls, London	30	0	0
Miss Gertrude Webb, 29, Phillimore Gardens, London, W.	10	0	0
Miss Jamieson, Mansfield, Anstruther, Fife	1	0	0
Miss Constance Smith, Kirklands, Northbank Road, Norwich		10	0
Miss S. E. S. Mair, 5, Chester Street, Edinburgh	10	0	0
Mrs. Sime, Norwood, Gourock		10	0
Mrs. W. Hartas Jackson, Norman House, Rusholme, Manchester	1	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. W. Ritchie, 13, Rosemount Place, Perth		10	0
Mrs. Guyer, 5, East Savile Road, Edinburgh		10	0
Miss Elbart, 3, Chester Road, Branksome Park, Bournemouth	1	1	0
Miss Evelyn Harrier, 80, Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells		5	0
Miss A. I. Wood, 33, Southwood Lawn Road, Highgate, London		10	0
"Anon.", Cornwall, per Dr. Elsie Inglis, Edin.	5	0	0
Harold Bryen, Esq., Ruthven, Sittingbourne		10	0
Miss M. A. Glasier, 28, Gladhow Gardens, S. Kensington, London	2	2	0
Miss Stanton Barnes, 18, Beyne Avenue, Prestwick, Manchester	1	1	0
Miss Elsie Bazeley, Whitelands College, Chelsea, London		3	0
"A." per Dr. Elsie Inglis, Edin.	1	0	0
Collected by Miss Goodrich, Colwyn Bay (2nd collection)		7	6
Miss D. A. Courtney, 4, Frognal Mansions, London	3	3	0
Miss A. Esther White, Wyke Lodge, Winchester	1	0	0
Dr. and Mrs. Walker, 5, Wester Coates Road, Edinburgh	20	0	0
The Stirlingshire, W.S.S.	1	0	0
Mrs. Balfour, Dawyck Stobo	2	0	0
"The Newington Bed," per Dr. Elsie Inglis, Edin.	31	10	3
Miss Corry, Beltrees, High School Greenock	2	10	0
"Anon.", Montrose, per Dr. Elsie Inglis, Edin.	10	0	0
	£276	1	3

Forthcoming Meetings.

OCTOBER 22.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Mr. Dennis Hird, M.A. (Central Labour College, Earl's Court, London), on "Nietzsche: Women and War" 4.30

Leicester—Temperance Hall—Speakers, Mrs. Creighton, Mrs. Cooper, on "War and Women"—Chair, Mr. J. Mentor Gimson, J.P. 8.0

OCTOBER 26.

Bristol.—40, Park Street—Working Parties 3.0 & 6.30

OCTOBER 27.

Birmingham — Sparkbrook — Women's Adult School—Speaker, Mrs. Ring 7.45

Rochdale—Pioneers' Hall (kindly lent by Pioneers' Co-operative Society)—Speakers, Dr. Olive Claydon (of Oldham) and Mrs. Hills—Subject, "Maternity Centres for Rochdale"—Chair, Lady Rochdale 8.0

OCTOBER 28.

Bristol—At St. Agnes—Working Party for Belgian Refugees 3.0

Gateshead—Bewick Hall, High West Street—Mrs. G. D. Bilteliffe on "Free Meals for School Children"—Soloist, Miss Ellison 3.0

Wallasey & Wirral—Liscard Concert Hall, Room 5—Annual Meeting—Miss H. Armitage (Joint Hon. Sec. of Manchester School for Mothers) on "Maternity Centres and Schools for Mothers" 8.0

OCTOBER 30.

Edinburgh.—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Mrs. Leslie Mackenzie (Member of Edinburgh School Board) on "The Administration of the Prince of Wales's Fund" 4.30

Southport—Girls' Club—Annual Meeting—Speaker, the Rev. J. Ivory Cripps, B.A. 7.30

List of Changes of Address and New Societies.

ENGLAND.

Beaconsfield.—Mrs. Dixon Davies, Witheridge, Beaconsfield.

Herts, East.—Miss G. Bradford, North End House, Watford.

Hunstanton.—Mrs. Messiter, Wavel Kellie, Hunstanton.

Kettering.—Mrs. Percy Wallis, Westacre, Kettering.

Leeds.—Miss B. B. Rogers, 35, Park Square, Leeds.

Lincoln.—Miss E. Giles, The Quarry, Lincoln.

Penrith.—Miss Altham, 22, Brunswick Square, Penrith.

Portishead.—(*Pro tem.*) Mrs. Stanley Wood, 11, Adelaide Terrace, Portishead.

Shanklin.—Mrs. E. de B. Griffith, Snowdon, Shanklin.

Tunbridge Wells.—Mrs. Tattersall Dodd, 18, Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Topsham.—Mrs. Bush, Woodbury Lodge, Exton.

Truro.—Mrs. Robinson, 20, Lemon Street, Truro.

SCOTLAND.

Ayr and Troon.—(*Pro tem.*) Mrs. Muir, St. Monnena, Troon.

John o' Groat's.—Miss May Mackenzie, Thurso East.

WALES.

Port Talbot.—Miss A. M. Hamilton, Port Talbot, South Wales.

Lantern Lecture on Belgium.

The date of the Lantern Lecture on Belgium arranged by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, will be given by the Very Rev. Prior McNabb, O.P., in the Kensington Town Hall, on Tuesday, October 27th, at 8 p.m., instead of on Monday, as originally advertised.

A MEETING

Will be held on

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

At 3 p.m.

Chairman: **Mrs. FAWCETT.**

Speakers:

Miss SHEEPSHANKS and
Miss WALSHE

ON

Relief Work to Destitute Belgians in Holland.

Place of Meeting announced next week.

Admission Free by ticket to be obtained from National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, S.W.

WHY KEEP USELESS JEWELLERY?

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WOMEN'S GARDENING ASSOCIATION,
62 and 64, LOWER SLOANE STREET.
ORDERS PLACED FOR COUNTRY PRODUCE

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